GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4004
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2001
DRUG TRAFFICKING
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;V.M. SUDHEERAN

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the alarming increase of drug menace in the country;

(b) if so, whether any special steps have been taken by the Government to contain drug trafficking in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have taken any step in coordinating international agencies to fight against the global drug mafia; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) : Seizure trends do not indicate alarming increase in the drug menace in the country.

(b) & (c) : As per the directive principles enshrined in the Constitution, Government of India is committed to curb themenace of drug abuse. For this purpose various statutes have been enacted including NDPS Act and PITNDPS Act which provide for stringent punishment to drug traffickers and death sentences in specific cases of repeated offences. Besides, a large number of enforcement agencies have been empowered to enforce the provisions of NDPS Act.Other significant steps include evolving a policy of payment of rewards to informers and enforcement officers, imparting of training to enforcement officers and extension of financial assistance to the State Governments to set up Special Courts for trying cases booked under the NDPS Act.

(d)& (e) : Drug abuse and trafficking is a global problem. Being a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and bilateral agreements with 13 countries, India has put up a joint front with other countries in dealing with drug abuse and drug trafficking in the global context.